importing countries of our readymade garments. The exports of readymade garments to these countries during the last three years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 were as follows:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Countries	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
U.S.A.	6000.53	6407.06	8432.75
E.U.	6504.49	7079.23	7981.67
U.A.E.	1699.95	2124.31	2487.21
Canada	745.09	881.87	1070.26
Japan	307.99	331.27	525.87
Saudi Arabia	286.21	422.93	503.57
South Africa	166.67	175.97	196.45
Australia	224.49	247.45	242.24

Source: DGCI & S, Kolkata

Conference of International Silk Association in Bangalore

1889. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four-day World Congress of the International Silk Association was held in Bangalore on December 3, 2001;

(b) if so, what were the main subjects discussed;

(c) whether the Union Government have announced five point strategy for silk industry development;

(d) if so, the details of the strategy; and

(e) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, International Silk Association held its 23rd Congress in Bangalore from 3rd to 6th December, 2001 to which its members were delegates. The Congress discussed technical as well as trade and market related issues. Sessions included the presentation of papers by

delegates and discussions in regard to Sericulture and Reeling, Trade in raw silk, Trade in silk waste, Trade in thrown silk, Weaving, Trade in silk fabrics, silk furnishing, Dyeing, printing and finishing of silk, Technology and Research.

(c) to (e) Government have announced a National Textile Policy which lists steps in order to achieve international standard in all varieties of silk. The steps include the following five:—

i. Improving Research & Development and the effective transfer of technology at all stages;

ii. Considerably improving the production of non-mulberry varieties of silk;

iii. Augmenting efforts for the spread of bivoltine sericulture;

iv. Encouraging clustering of activities of reeling and weaving and strengthen linkages between the producers and industry;

v. Periodically reviewing the import policy for raw silk taking into account the balanced interests of the sericulturists as well as export manufacturers.

The X Five Year Plan has been drawn up to give effect to the above steps.

Decline in the export of man-made textiles

1890. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of man-made textile have been hit in recent years;

(b) if so, whether during the year 1996-97, the exports of man-made textile showed a decline of 6.5% and during the year 1998-1999, exports of these products declined by 12.5% in dollar terms;

(c) whether during April, 2001, the man-made fabric textile exports declined by 8.4 per cent as compared to the corresponding period 2000;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and